Claims:

1. A method for determining clock skew in a packet-based telephony session comprising the steps of:

receiving a sequence of control packets from a remote telephony device transmitting media packets in a telephony session; each control packet including a remote real time-stamp; and a remote media card clock time-stamp corresponding to the remote real time-stamp; and

determining from two or more of said received control packets a first relative rate of a remote media card clock to the remote real time rate.

2. A method according to claim 1 comprising the steps of:

transmitting a sequence of control packets from a local telephony device transmitting media packets in a telephony session; each control packet including a local real time-stamp; and a local media card clock time-stamp corresponding to the local real time-stamp; and

determining from two or more of said transmitted control packets a second relative rate of a local media card clock to the local real-time rate.

3. A method according to claim 2 comprising the step of:

synchronizing said local real time rate with said remote real time-rate.

4. A method according to claim 3 wherein said telephony devices communicate across an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein said network is one of a LAN (Local Area Network) a WAN (Wide Area Network) or the Internet.

6. A method according to claim 4 wherein said synchronisation employs the Network Time Protocol.

7. A method according to claim 1 wherein said media packets are Realtime Transport Protocol (RTP) packets and wherein said control packets are RTP Control Protocol (RTCP) Sender Report (SR) packets.

8. A method according to claim 2 further comprising the step of:

adjusting the contents of a buffer storing said media packets received from a transmitting device according to said first and second relative rates.

9. A method according to claim 3 further comprising the step of:

determining from a difference in time between local real time when a control packet is received and the remote real time-stamp of said control packet, a first approximation of one-way media packet delay; and

determining from said first relative rate and said first approximation a skew-corrected one-way media packet delay between telephony devices in said telephony session.

10. A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of:

adjusting a playout strategy of said telephony session according to said skew-corrected one-way media packet delay.

11. A method according to claim 1 wherein said real time-stamp is a system clock time.

12. A telephony application running in a telephony device arranged to perform the steps of claim 1.

13. A computer program product which when executed in a telephony device is arranged to perform the steps of claim 1.